BEAM COMIX

いばらの王 5

岩原裕二

BEAM COMIX

9784757723030

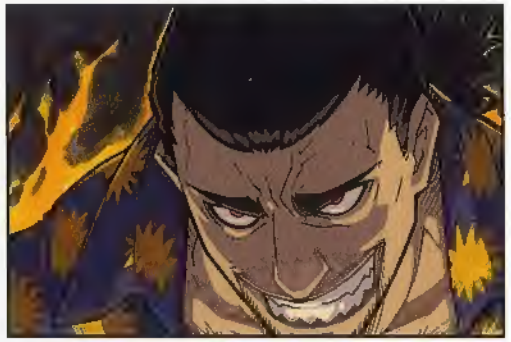
1920979006201

ISBN4-7577-2303-2

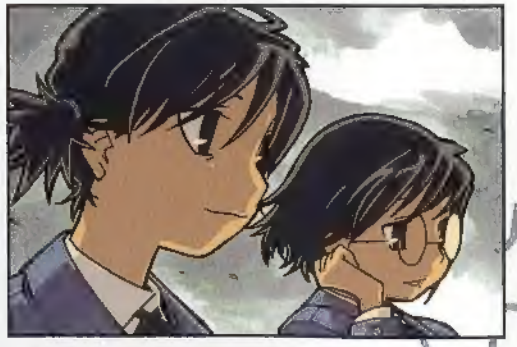
C0979 ¥620E

定価 本体620円 +税

エンターブレイン



奇病メドゥーサを利用し、怪生物を生み出したのは、自らを"ゼウス"と名乗る男であった。ゼウスを倒し、仲間を救うべく、マルコは単身中央ラボへとたどり着く。一方カスミはアリスに出会い、第2ラボへと導かれるのだが……。いま、ふたりはそれぞれの場所で、驚愕の真実を知る……‼　古城脱出活劇、絶後の第5巻‼



いばらの王

King of Thorn.

5

岩原裕二
Yuji Iwahara

いばらの王 5

目次

第25話 キャサリンの死 003
第26話 心の一部 035
第27話 宿敵との再会 067
第28話 アリスの世界 099
第29話 弱さと現実 131
第30話 シズクという存在 163
第31話 うぬぼれ屋 195
あとがき 230

岩原裕二
Yuji Iwahara

5巻にはタコと鳥が出る。わりとお気に入りのキャラだ。最後に出てくる、黒いのも気に入っている。そのあおりでマルコと電気トカゲの戦いはお蔵入りになった(笑)。

いばらの王

King of Thorn

5

岩原
Yuji Iwahara
裕二

BEAM COMIX

いばらの王 5

岩原裕二

BEAM COMIX

enterbrain

ゴゴゴゴゴ
?!!
CRASH
hah
hah
THE BIG ONE?
YES. IT'S THE "MOTHER."
SHE IS STILL EXHAUSTED FROM GIVING BIRTH TO SO MANY CHILDREN, BUT...
...THE THORNS SURROUNDING HER..
...ARE EVEN DENSER AND SHARPER.

Chapter 25
The death of Kathryn

FW
SSHAA
A!i!
WAA-
HH!
...!

THIS WAY!

OKAY!

FOUND A MEDICAL KIT ON THE WAY.

TOOK SOME PAIN-KILLERS.

WAS PRETTY LUCKY.

YOUR LEGS... ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?

SSHAA!!

HOW TYPICAL! HE ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE WANTS!

メキキ

HE LEFT TO DRAIN THE WATER.

WHERE'S THE GUY WITH THE TATTOOS?

THERE'S A MACHINE THERE THAT CAN EXTRACT MEDUSA FROM BODIES...

YES!

REALLY?

I SEE...

YES.

THEN THESE MONSTERS ARE ACTUALLY MEDUSA?

BUT IF WE CATCH UP TO MARCO...

TO DO THAT, WE HAVE TO REACH THE MAIN LAB...

...WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE KATHRYN.

ﾊｱ..!

!

A SHORT CUT.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE WALL?

ﾅﾆｰ ﾅﾆｰ

HURRY!

GO.

IN HERE.

BE RE ...

EH?!

!!!

ﾅﾆｰ

ﾄﾄﾄﾄ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

NOT EVEN HE WOULD'VE KNOWN ABOUT THAT.

MARCO DIDN'T MENTION THAT...

ﾅﾆｰ ﾄﾄﾄ

IS THAT... THE SEA DOWN THERE?

THE REMAINS OF THE OLD CASTLE.

PROBABLY A SECRET PASSAGE.

SSSH AA!

IS KATHRYN OKAY?

YEAH. THE PAIN JUST MADE HER FAINT.

WHO KNOWS... MAYBE SHE S...

MGHT BE ONLY A MATTER OF MNUTES.

nuff

nuff

BUT THE PETRIFICAT ON PROCESS HAS ALREADY STARTED...

ha

ha

ha

WE MUST GO ACROSS.

OKAY.

THERE'S A BRIDGE AHEAD.

WE HAVE TO GET OVER THERE!

THERE!

ゴゴゴ

SSH!

...STILL USE-ABLE...?!

ギッギッギッ

ギギギ

I...IS THAT BRIDGE...

ギギギ

!?

BUT IF HE ATTACKS US, THEN...

I ALREADY CROSSED IT ONCE.

IT'LL WORK.

THAT'S WHY WE SHOULD HURRY...

SSSSHAAAA!

ヤツ

ヤツ

ヤツ

ヤツ

...!!!

HIS OCTUPUS ARMS MIGHT BE STRONG ...

...BUT ON THE GROUND HE'S LACKING SPEED...

HE'S STILL FAR ENOUGH.

HE'S THERE ...!

WE CAN STILL SHAKE HIM OFF.

IYAH !

HURRY !

ズリリリ

ズリリリ

ズリリリ

ズリリリ

ズリリリ

I'M VERY GOOD AT THIS.

NO.

AREN'T YOU SCARED ?

カカカ

キシ キシ キシ

COME ON, LET'S GO!

GO!

TIM ...

O... OKAY!

START RUNNING ALREADY!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR AMAZE-MENT!

カカカ

NOT BAD !!

キシ キシ

WAI ...

!!?

WATCH OUT!!

!

BRAK

ドドド

AAA HH!

!!!

ドン

ドン

ドン

ドドドド

…!

ドゴッ

SSSSHAAA!

WHAT INSANE STRENGTH …

ズズ…

GRRR…

SSS SS HH …

ドラ ドラ ドラ

CALM DOWN …

OKAY!

DON'T STOP!

RUN!

ドドド

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

UHH ...

?!!

LET ME DOWN ...

SSSHA AA!!

ワナナナ

WHAT AN ABSURD MONSTER ...

NGH ...

WHAT ...?

YOU'RE AWAKE ?!

LET ME DOWN ...

...MAYBE IT WON'T FOLLOW YOU ANYMORE ...

IT'S OVER FOR ME...

IF I DIE HERE ...

AND THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU...

I SWORE TO MYSELF ...

I WILL DO EVERY-THING...

...TO SAVE THAT CHILD ...

NO!

LET ME DOWN ...

huff

huff

AFTER ALL, YOU GAVE UP ONCE YOURSELF ...

THAT MAY BE.

huff

JUST LEAVE ME BEHIND ...

WHY?

I'LL DIE IN ANY CASE...

I SAW IT!

SS SH AA!

WHY ARE YOU ...

...

HIS
SURPRISE
THE BOY
WITH THE
BLANKET

HE WAS
DEEPLY
HURT
AND
SAD...

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU TO THEM!

ANY WAY ...

...

...

...

BUT ...

...

SSSSH AAA!

AH!

OVER THERE ...!

hah

hah

AAA

AA

MY ARMS... MY LEGS... I CAN'T FEEL THEM ANYMORE...

...BUT THIS THING HERE MIGHT BE!

THE MONSTER WON'T BE ABLE TO FIT THROUGH THE HOLE!

I LIT THOSE TORCHES ON MY WAY HERE.

!

THE HUT IS NO GOOD ...

SSHA!!

GO! HURRY UP!

...?!

AN ECHO?

WHAT ...?

SSSSSHHH!

?!

…
?!!

ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ

ハァハァ

ハァ

NO
…

ハァ

ズ

ズ

ズ

ハァ

ハァ

ハァ

THE DOOR-WAY... !!!

ズゴゴゴゴ

ズゴ

ズゴ

AHH ...!

WE HAVE TO GET IN THE HUT!

SHIT !!

NO CHANCE!

IYAAH !!

ウネ

HNNH ...

grip

?!

TAKE THE TORCH ...!!

SQUI !!!

ズゴゴゴゴ

GO AWAY !!

YAA HH!

AHH ...

STAY HERE!

TURN ON THE FIRE-PLACE!

HYAA HH!

GET IN HERE!

COME ON!

...

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

...

NO

ZU

ZU

nah

nah

HNGH ...

IAR GH!

!!!

WHOOSH

SSHA AA!

GU GU GU

..T'S ALL OVER

NOW ...

GOD DAMN ...

HE'S COMING THROUGH THE CEILING .!

GU GU GU

ZIIII

I'M A BAD MOTHER ..

IAA AAA AHH H!!!

..THIS CHILD, EITHER ...

I WASN'T ABLE TO SAVE .

WUA AAA AHH H!!

...

?

ズッ

ッ!!

IT'S OVER ...

バキバキ

KATH-RYN !!!

ゴロ

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR MY SAKE .?

WHY ?

HNN GH ...

ギッ

DOES ONE ALWAYS NEED A REASON TO HELP SOMEONE ?!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!

...?!!

KASUMI ...

TIM ...

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE!

HE'S RIGHT!

YOU'VE HELPED ME OUT AS WELL, HAVEN'T YOU?

...OUR FUTURE IS FORFEIT.

NO MATTER HOW SLIM OUR CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL ARE... IF WE STOP BELIEVING IN OURSELVES...

...

HOW DID I ...

DON'T GIVE UP LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE KIDS...

hah

hah

AG GH!

ドサ

?!

ドド ドド

ズゴ

!!!

GOOD !!

THERE'S STILL HOPE!

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY BACK THERE ...!

LOOK THERE !

I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT...

NO MATTER HOW SLIM OUR CHANCES MAY BE ...

ドサ

OKAY.

WE'LL HELP YOU WALK FROM BOTH SIDES.

NOTHING .. ONLY A STORAGE ROOM?!

A DEAD END ...?

AH ...

ハァ ハァ

...!!!

THIS SMELL ... !

...!

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, TIM.

ハァ ハァ

I'M SORRY ...

DAMN

IYA AAA AAA H!!

!!

ドゴォ

ドゴォ

ドゴォ

ドゴォ

ドゴォ

ドゴォ

ドド
ドド
ドド

KATHRYN?

IS THAT ... ALCOHOL?

?!

hah

ha

UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, MEDUSA CAN MAKE THE IMAGINARY BECOME REALITY...

I, TOO, HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE THESE CONDITIONS...

GIVE ME STRENGTH...

MICHAEL, I BEG OF YOU...

WHAT ...?!!

...MY IMAGE!

NOO !!!

THIS IS...

WINGS...

GIVE ME...

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

ぐるぐる

Translation by ya

I want to thank god, my grand grandgrandparents, my grandgrand parents, my grandparents, my parents, my brother, my sister, my wife, my son, my daughter, my cousins, my aunts, my uncles, my mistress, my friends, my dog, my cat, my government, my administration, my doctors AND SO ON for making this release possible! YOU ARE GREAT! AND BY THE WAY I WISH FOR WORLD ~~PEACE~~ PIECES AND WAR!

Cleaned by Aladar

Aladar's asleep so no rant from that punk. —Log

Typeset by nat-chan

Strangely, I was getting turned on by the sound effects...

QC'd by N0t_Log

This is late because of me. I stalled QC for like 2 weeks.

QC'd by Ravin

404 rant not found

Got mad cleaning and redrawing skillz? Join the fight! enter strays' lair at

strays.devserver.org

or

#strays@irc.rizon.net

Chapter 26

A fragment of the heart

SHE... SHE TRANS-FORMED ...

... NO ...

SHE SACRIFICED HER LIFE...

KWEE!

...AND OFFERED HER BODY TO MEDUSA.

...
MEDUSA
...

KWEEE!

ポポポ

THIS IS...

SSSHAA!

ガシ

ガシ

ガシ

...

!

ZIII

ZIII

ZIII

AUNTY!

キュ

III

キュ

III

わあ

あ

AUNTY ...!

...IMAGE OF AN IDEAL MOTHER IN MATERIALIZED FORM.

THIS IS MOST LIKELY KATH-RYN'S ...

BUT MEDUSA REFLECTS THE IMAGE IN YOUR HEART...

NO ...

THAT ISN'T REALLY HER... RIGHT?

…네

…

탁!
탁!

SSSHAA!

으으

ヒュウウウ
ウ
ALINTY
...
...!
WHAT'S SHE PLAN-NING!?

GAH

NOW I UNDER-STAND!

ALCO-HOL

!

!?

!

ボオオ

ピロ

ゴゴゴゴゴ

ズゴゴゴ

AAH!

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ

KUTTT!

ガッ

ガッ

ガシッ

?

OKAY.

SHE'S SPEWING OUT THE ALCOHOL THAT SHE ABORBED EARLIER..

FIRE?

BUT

I DON'T DRINK ALCO-HOL...

DUMB-ASS!

YOU DON'T NEED TO DRINK IT!

ガシッ

VODKA

WE'LL DO THE SAME.

!

THAT'LL KEEP THEM IN CHECK.

WE'LL THROW THESE AT THEM AND HELP SPREAD THE FIRE ...

ハアハア

ハアハア

ゴオオ

IT'S HOT!

WATCH WHERE YOU STEP!

ゴオオオ

ワオ゛゛

ALINTYN!

!

SKUIII!

ゴキ

SKUIII!

ゴゴゴ

SKUIII!

ゴゴゴ

ゴ

ブーン

EHH!

YES!

ビュッ

DON'T STOP! KEEP GOING!

ヒュ

SKUM!

AL-RIGHT!

THE WAY IS CLEAR!

ゴキ

HIYAH!

IPU

KU!!!

IPU

FUMM!

ゴキキ

SSSH

RUN!

ゴキキキ

TIM!

ゴキ

!?

JUST A LITTLE FUR-THER!

AAGH!

TWANK

ゴゴゴゴ

ドドドド

いやあああああああ!!

GOAH

!?

GET UP, TIM!

HURRY!

HURRY UP!

AUNTY!

KWEE!

ボキキ

ドドド

スゴ!!!

SSHA

!

ドカ!!!

ドカ!!!

ガシャ!!

ゴゴゴ

ドカ!!!

ALINTY!

NOOO!

AAHH ...

AHH ...

KYAA!

LEAVE HER!

ALINTY!

WASN'T THAT WHY SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF?

TO GIVE US A CHANCE TO ESCAPE?

BUT ...

!

THAT'S NOT KATHRYN, IT'S...

MEDUSA!

WE HAVE TO LEAVE HER BE-HIND!

...

ｱｱｱ

ｸﾞｯ

NOW, LET'S GO!

...!

ｽﾞﾙﾙ

ha

ha

SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED IT THIS WAY!

!?

ｸｸｸｸ

TIM!

NO!

HS

HS

ﾋｯﾋｯﾋｯ

ズル
ズルズル
ズル

gah

COME BACK!

NO!

SHAA

UWAAAA

YOU ...

LET HER GOO!

...

ドサ

ズオオオ

!?

SSHAA!

ドサ

TCHIK

TIM!

...
HER
...

...
GO
...

LET
...

ALINTY
...!

...!

ヒュ

ｶﾂ!! !! !!

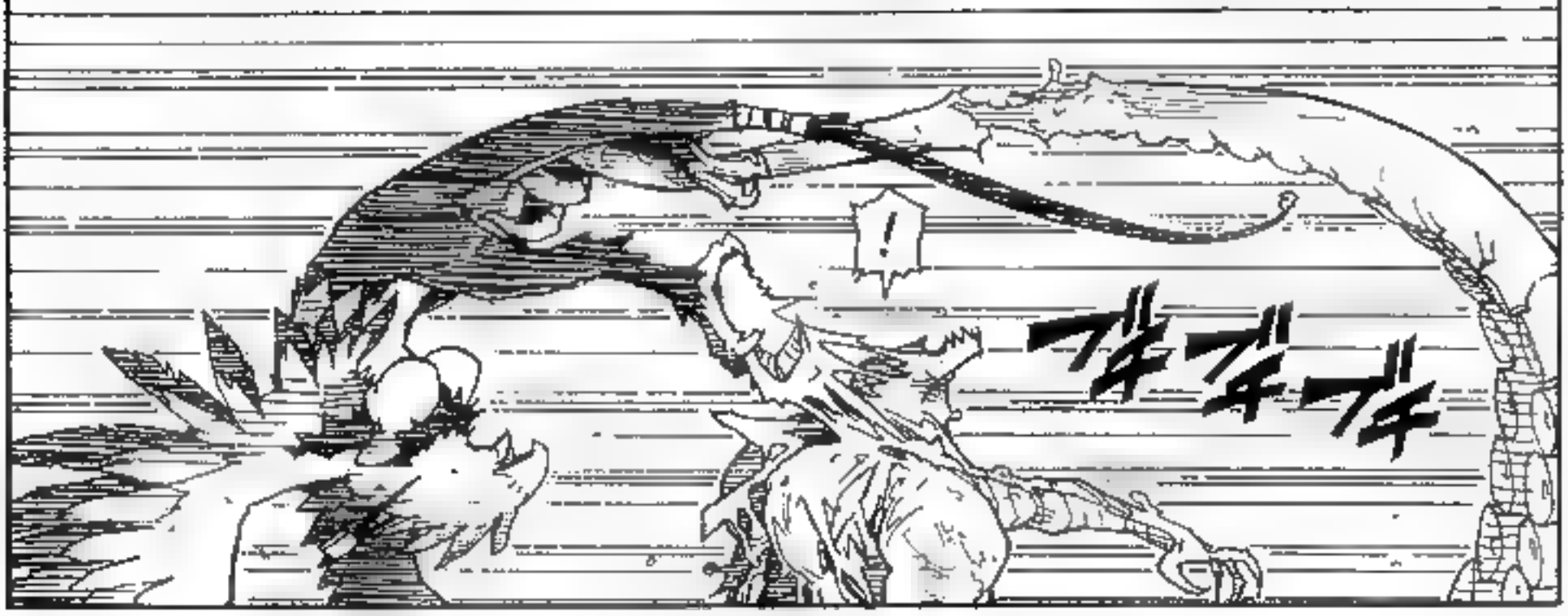
ｶﾂ!!

!

!!!

BRAKK

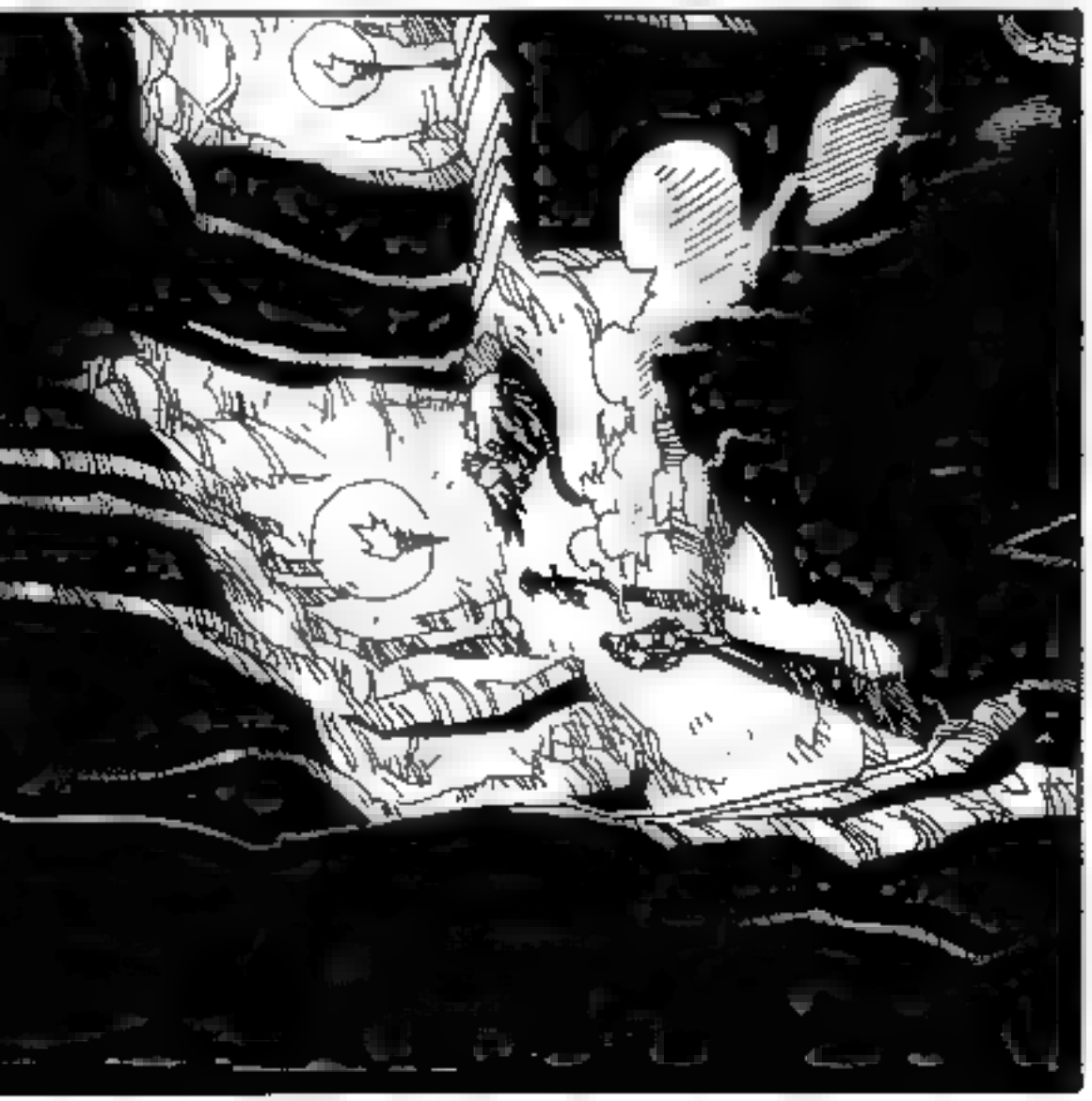
BRAKK

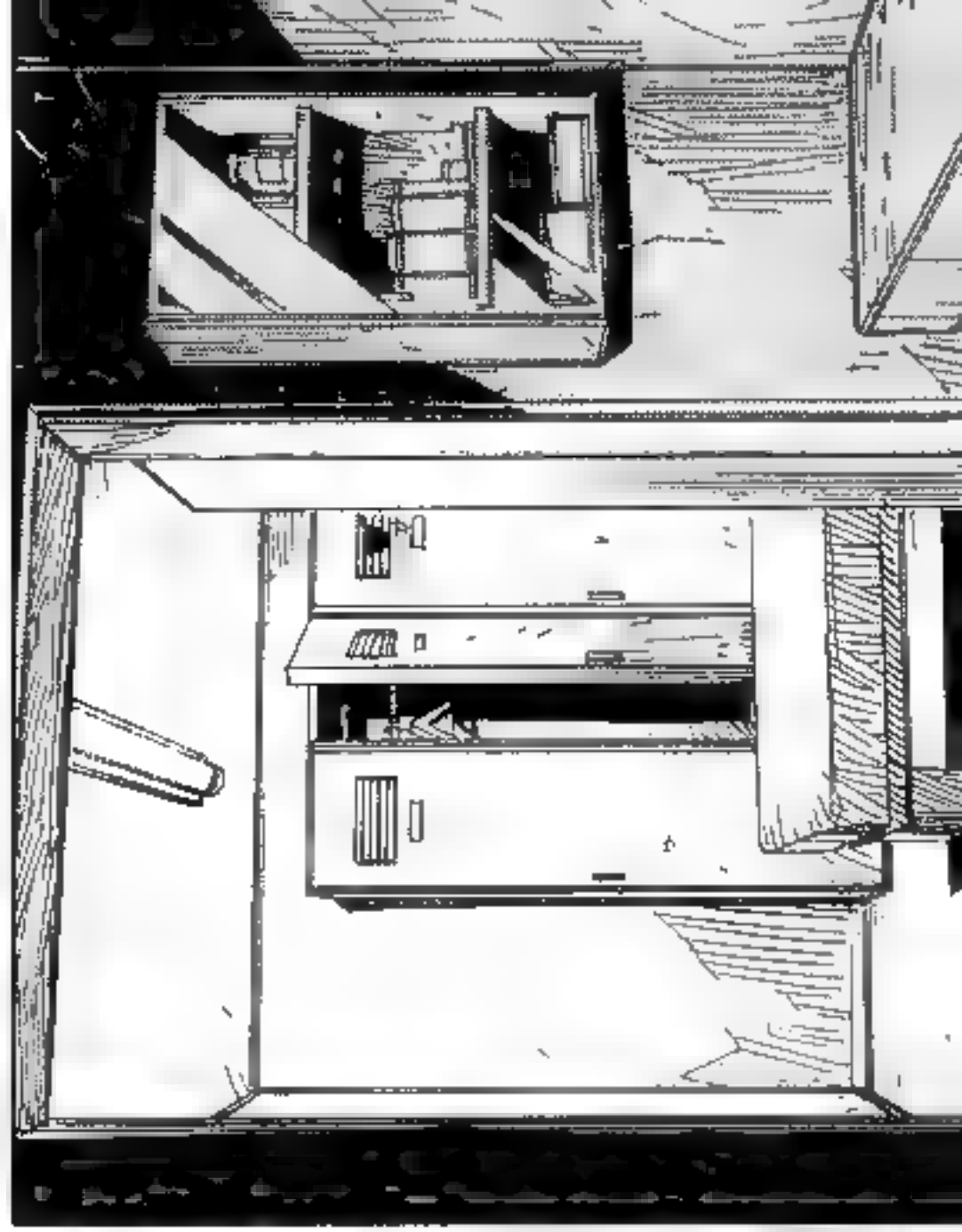

!
GA GA GA

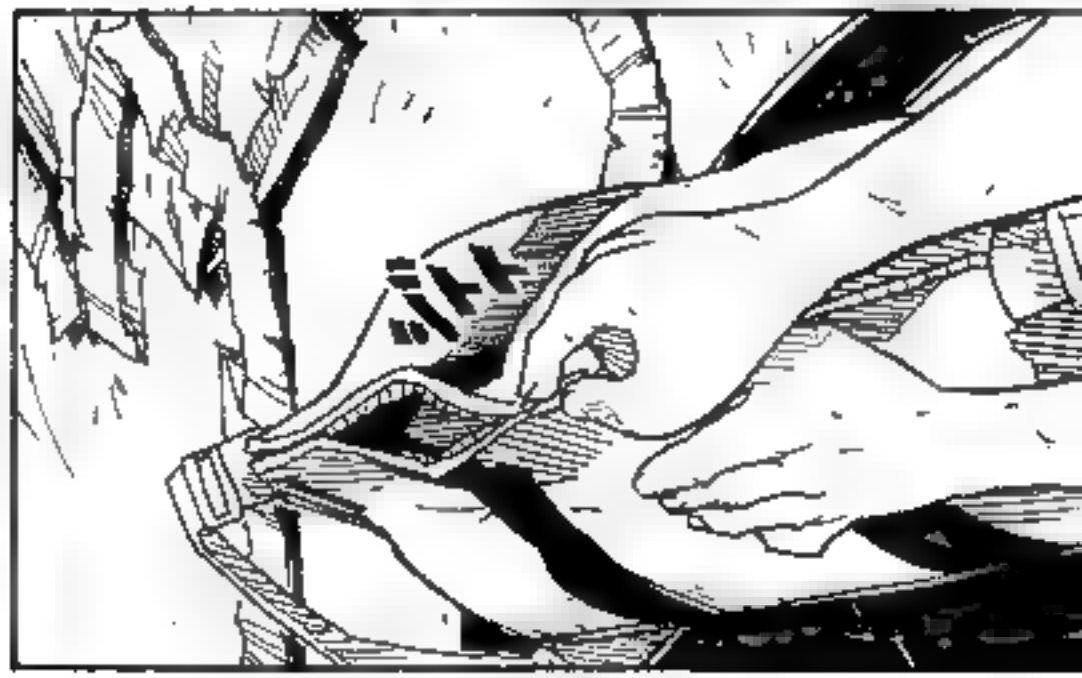
SPLOTCH!
END

ゴゴゴ
ドドドド
ザラ
ザラ
ドサアッ!!
…
…
ザラ
ザラ
ザラ

AUNTY!







!

...

...IM-PRAC-TICAL!

BUT IT'S A BIT...

A SHIRT?

HERE WEAR THIS AS WELL.

TIM...

...

MAYBE SHE WAS PLANNING TO GO TO A PARTY?

THIS WAS THE ONLY ONE

...

HEY! THAT SUITS YOU!

YES.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO STAY HERE?

...
YOU SHOULD REST SOME MORE.

TIM ...

YOU CAN LOCK THIS ROOM. AND THERE'S FOOD AS WELL.

ALL RIGHT.

... SHE'S ABLE TO FLY AGAIN ...

I'LL STAY WITH HER UNTIL ...

...HE HAS A BODY-GUARD ...

AND BESIDES ...

YOU'LL BE SAFER HERE THAN WITH US.

ALL RIGHT, TIM?

YES.

PUI

WHEN IT'S ALL OVER WE'LL COME AND GET THEM.

OKAY ...

…

…

ヴォ

EHEHE
…

IF MEDUSA IS A REFLECTION OF THE HEART …

… THEN WHAT WERE THOSE CREATURES THAT ATTACKED US?

MOTHERLY INSTINCTS …?

WHOSE IMAGINATION CHANGED THIS WORLD SO MUCH?

ゴゴゴ

WHAT EMOTIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MONSTERS?

…!

COME ON KAZUMI!

KA-SUMI ...

KA-SUMI ...

...she wouldn't ...

But Shizuku ...

What am I thinking?

Just because Shizuku came out of Level 4 doesn't mean that...

Impos-sible... Shizuku can't ..

NEVER MIND...

WHAT'S WRONG?

N-... NOTHING ...

...?!

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...
ARC

...?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT

... ALICE?

BUT ...
...IT SEEMS IT WAS WORTH IT. THIS SHOULD BE THE PLACE WHERE I CAN DRAIN THE WATER ...

Translated by: ya

The translator of a great work should revere his text and recognize that there is much in it he cannot understand. His translation should try to make others able to understand what he cannot understand, which means he often must prefer a dull ambiguity to a brilliant resolution [...]
[/rant]

Proofed by: Vile_77 & yhtt

silence

Cleaned by: Aladar

silence

Typeset by: LokiarCgar

That's right my children, daddy's back from his cigarette buying quest, and he's here to stay.

QC'd by: Not_Log & Nat-chan

Log: Oh god I stall too much on QC, seriously.

Got mad cleaning and redrawing skillz? Join the fight! Enter Strays' lair at

straysvnmanga.com

or

#strays@irc.highwayne.t

Chapter 27

A Reunion with the Archenemy

...

ALICE ...?

SHE'S DIS-APPEARED AGAIN?

ha ha

...DONE YOUR PART.

YOU'VE ALREADY ...

HM ...

WASN'T THERE SOME-THING YOU NEEDED ME TO DO?

ｽｳｯ…

…HAND-SOME.

BYE-BYE …

WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO NOW …

…DOES NOT INVOLVE ME IN ANY WAY.

YOU ALSO TOLD ME WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW.

OH WELL …

TCHAKK

ｺﾛ

ｺﾛ

ｺﾛ

ﾋｭｳｳｳ

ドン

ドン

ドン

CRACK

ghh

ha

...

ha

I WONDER IF THEY HAD ANY PROBLEMS LEAVING THE ROOM ...

ha

ha

FFFFFF

FFFFFF

ha

NOW ALL THE DOORS CAN BE SAFELY OPENED ...

ha

... DRAINING WATER.

SOUNDS LIKE...

...

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

THAT DEFINITELY WAS MARCO!

MARCO ...!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

THE WATER LEVEL IS DROPPING.

THERE.

YOU SEEM PRETTY RELIEVED ...

HE'S ALIVE ...

...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WOMEN SEE IN THAT TYPE OF GUY.

HMPH.

...

TELL ME.

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

EH?!

IT'S OKAY.

I... I AM.. JUST...

...

HE ALREADY HAS.

ゴゴゴゴ

THESE TYPES OF GUYS ONLY CAUSE WOMEN HEADACHES.

ゴゴゴゴ

AND DESPITE THAT, I AM STILL ...

ズズズ

ポロロ

ポロロ

キュウウウウ

ゴゴゴゴゴ

KRKS

KRKS

KRKS

GRNNHH
...

Kasumi
...

Kasumi

Kasumi
...

Don't
come
here
..

ピタ…

…

THE MAIN LAB …

IT SHOULDN'T BE FAR AWAY FROM HERE.

ピタ…

AND DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU AREN'T THERE, ZEUS.

ピタ

ピタ ピタ

ハンミョウ

?!!

ピタ

ピタ

I TOTALLY FORGOT ...

... ABOUT YOU GUYS!

HM?

YOU REALLY SCARED ME.

VENUS
GATE

BUT THIS SEEMS TO BE THE ENTRANCE TO THE MAIN LAB.

WHAT A TASTELESS SYMBOL.

pfh

WILS

THE DOOR TO VENUS ...?

VENUS GATE ...

!

kerr

110

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

gh

VENUS

GATE

!!!

...!

hrr
ZEUS
...

YOU'RE THE REAL THING THIS TIME, AREN'T YOU?

ヒヒヒ

MARCO.

ヒュン

ヒュン

HNGH ...

ナミシャ

ナミュン

UHH ...

CLACK

DAMN ...

ロー

...

ヒヒヒ

DO YOU THINK SO?

I WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANY-MORE.

ドサッ

ニヤッ

キュウ

I'LL DEFEAT YOU WITH JUST THESE.

ゴゴゴ

THIS IS WHAT I'VE TRAINED MY BODY FOR ...

ニヤ

...
ZEUS!!

!!!
!!!
!!

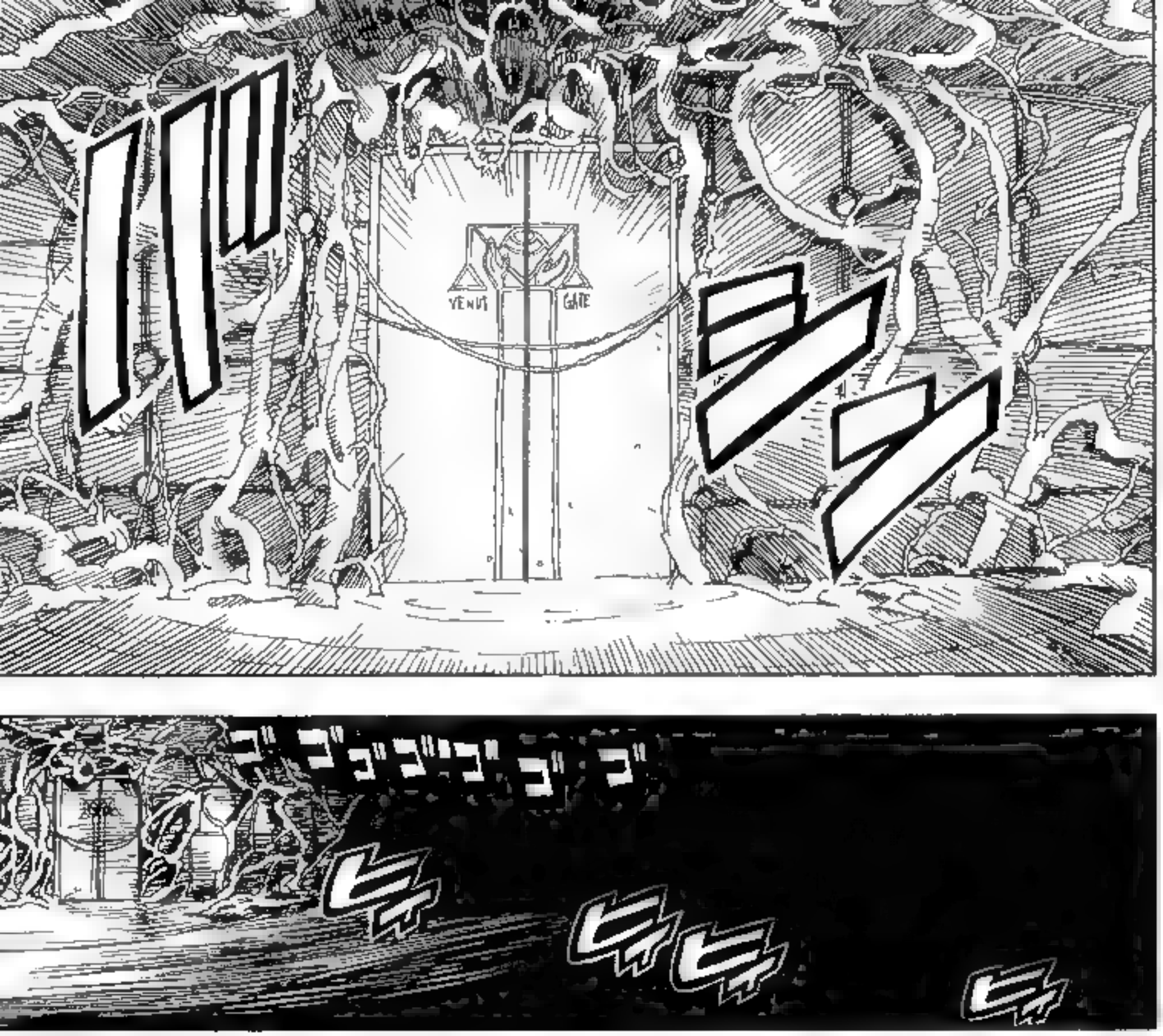
!!!
!!!

GAAAAAAH!!

YOU'RE THE BEST, MARCO!

!!!

HAA!!


NOW
YENJI GATE

NO IDEA ...
WHAT'S WRONG?

... STRANGE FEELING ...
I JUST HAD A ...

huh..?

Something must've happened to Marco ...

It's not that ...

BUT THIS TIME WE DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS.

...IF SOMETHING ATTACKED US IN THE DARK

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED ...

NOT WITHOUT A REASON ...

splash

IT'S PRETTY DARK IN HERE ...

SHIT ...

If we don't hurry ...

AN EMERGENCY LIGHT?

WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?

huff

HEY!

MAYBE THERE'S STILL...

ELECT-RICITY IN THIS AREA ...

A CONTROL PANEL?

WHAT?!

I'LL DO IT!

FEELS AS IF SOMEONE SUDDENLY FLIPPED A SWITCH TO MAKE HER RECKLESS ...

HEY!

WAIT!

ha ha

THIS ONE?

WELL ...

110

110

110

KDKS

BUJIK

WHAT ...

KDKS

BUJIK

KDKS

KDKS

OKAY ...

WATCH OUT!

KDKS

KDKS

THEY SUDDENLY BEGAN GROWING ONCE THE OBSTACLE HAD BEEN REMOVED ...

WIGGLE

WIGGLE

JUST LIKE BACK THEN IN THE GENERATOR ROOM!

UAAAAH!

WIGGLE

WIGGLE

PONG

BULLK

KDRKS

AAAH!

BULLK

KDRKS

MISTER ...?!

KDRKS

MISTER!

...

...

M... MISTER RON!

MY NAME'S RON!

I'VE GOT A NAME TOO!

KDRKS

IAGH!!

ゴゴゴ

...!

ゴゴゴ

BDA DAKK

...?!

...

...

FINALLY, THEY STOPPED GROWING ...

ヒュウ

NOT A CHANCE ...

IS THERE A WAY FOR YOU TO GET BACK?

MORE OR LESS ...

YES ...

!

IS EVERY-THING ALRIGHT?

HMM... LET'S SEE ...

IS THERE ANY WAY FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF THERE?

ALRIGHT ...

Kasumi
...

HUH
...?

...

...

...

Kasumi
...

Kasumi
...

...

AND?

...I FOUND A WAY.

AH ... YES ...

IS THERE A WAY?

WE'LL MEET UP IN THE MAIN LAB THAT MARCO WAS TALKING ABOUT.

I'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, MYSELF ...

OKAY ...

ha

ha

...

ha

AND BE CAREFUL.

ズサ ズサ

WHERE AM...

ha

hh

hh

47

YOU ...?!

...

YOU'RE THAT GIRL... WHO MET MARCO!!

YOU ARE THE GIRL ...

HE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW.

HE ...

?!

...HAS FINISHED HIS TASK ...

HE?

?!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY!

YOU'RE LYING!

YOU ...

YOU WATCHED WITHOUT EVEN LIFTING A FINGER!

EVEN WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES!

EVER SINCE WE ENTERED LEVEL 4, YOU'VE BEEN OBSERVING US, RIGHT?

CONSIDERING THE SITUATION, HE'S SURELY DEAD BY NOW.

HE'S NO MATCH FOR "HIM".

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PROB-ABLY"?!

AND THEN YOU TRY AND TELL ME THAT HE'S PROBABLY DEAD?!

THAT MARCO EVEN TALKED TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU ...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

HE HASN'T REALIZED THAT ONLY WITH MY HELP HE HAS SURVIVED AND GOT SO FAR.

HE SEEMS TO BE STRONG, BUT HE ISN'T.

...HE'S STILL ONLY A PRO-GRAMMER.

NO MATTER HOW FRIGHTENING HIS MUSCLES MAY APPEAR TO BE. .

?!

...THEN I'LL SHOW YOU.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW ...

WHO ...

...AM I?

MO ...

?!

AH HA HA!

IT WON'T HURT AT ALL.

DON'T WORRY.

ぶつぶつ
GAHGG!

Translated by ya!

"[...] If books are to be liberating, they must seem implausible in the twilight of our plausibilities which we no longer know how to question. An old book must appear to be old-fashioned and a translator cannot lessen the effort required of the reader; he can only make it possible for the reader to make that."

Lettered by [illegible] & yr

Cover colors by a pro

Scanned by Stealth

"I promise to write more comics. Also this is awesome."

Typeset by Bailey

"Watch organization number three! This meeting of the brothers of the [illegible] is now in session!"

Edited by [illegible]

"I hereby declare that anyone who complains about not getting a comic will instead receive a swift kick in the nuts."

Got mad cleaning and reviewing skills? Join the fight enlist today at

[illegible]

or

[illegible]

STRAYS' LAIR

KING OF THORNS

Chapter 28
Alice's World

GAHGG
...

EH?

DOES IT HURT?

QUITE SIMPLE.

WHY ...?!

WHY DON'T I FEEL ANYTHING?!

HMMM

THERE'S NO PAIN?

...?!

IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HURT ...

?!

ズッ

ッ

ッ

ッ

THIS IS WHY.

...!

I AAGH!

EVEN IF I WANTED TO HELP YOU, THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?

...ARE YOU A GHOST?

...

I CAN ONLY OBSERVE WHAT'S HAPPENING.

NOTHING MORE.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT TIM?!

...!

...AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO ASSIST YOU WHEN I TOOK CONTROL OF THAT BOY'S MIND.

BUT ...

SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

WELL ...

...I GET IT!

NOW ...

BUT I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN.

WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG, IT'S EASIER FOR ME TO ACCESS THEIR MINDS.

YES, THE INCIDENT WITH THE GIANT FROG ...

...!

...WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT.

AT LEAST THE GUY WITH THE TATTOOS WAS A BIT SURPRISED ...

...

YOU DON'T SEEM SURPRISED.

THERE'S NOTHING ...

I WAS CHASED BY AN OCTOPUS AND SWALLOWED BY A GIANT FROG ...

...

HMM ...

... THAT COULD SURPRISE ME FURTHER.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT ...

!

NO MATTER WHAT?

WAIT A SECOND!

WAIT ...

COME WITH ME.

...

WHAT ABOUT MARCO?

WAIT!

...

HEY!

YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE TO WATCH FOR THORNS, BUT I DO!

COULD YOU SLOW DOWN A LITTLE?

WE'RE NEARLY THERE.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

HUH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE THORNS ARE?

...

EXACTLY!

ホロ

PROBABLY MEDUSA.. RIGHT?

WHAT ...

...

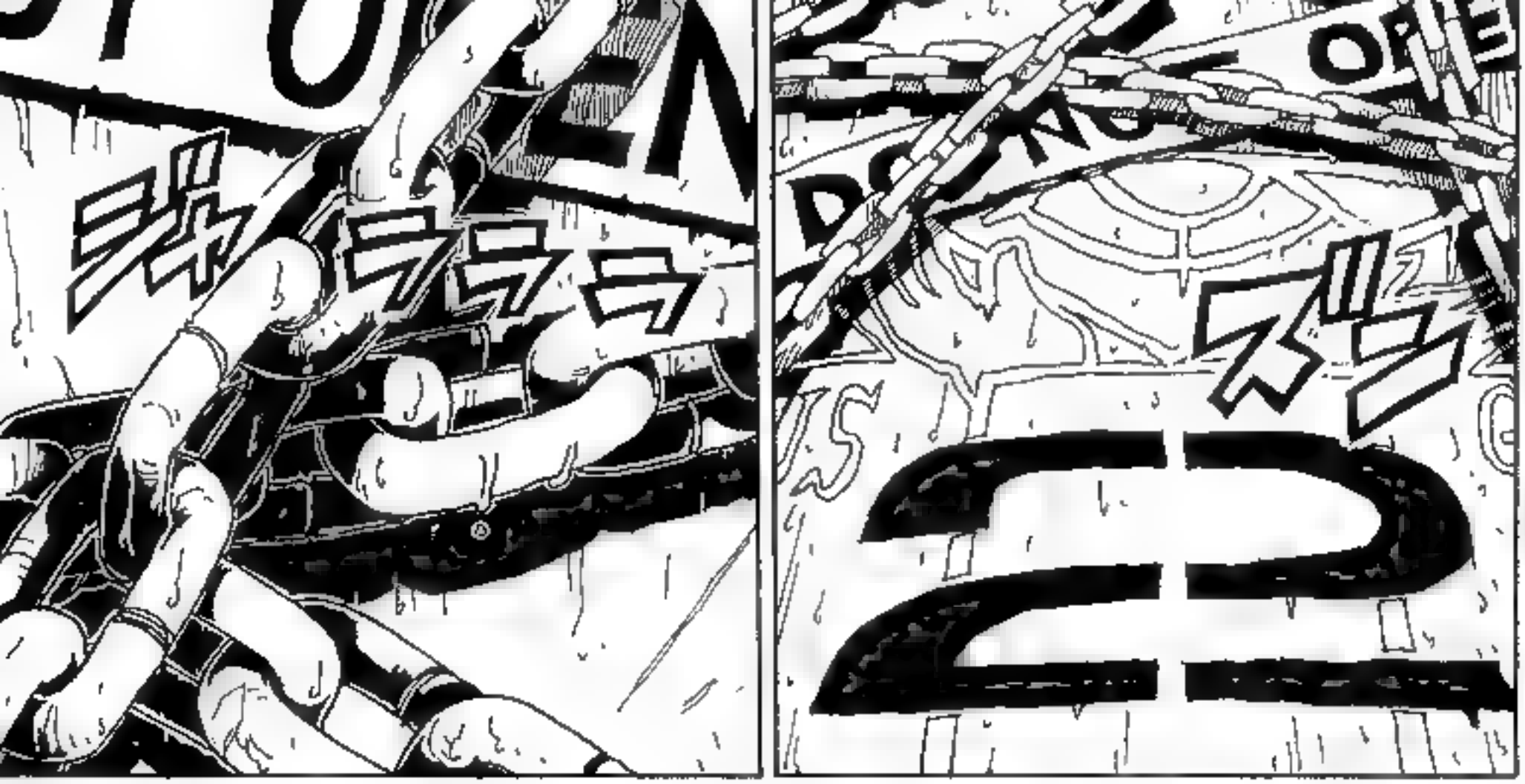
AND ...?

MEDUSA IS A RE-FLECTION OF THE HEART ...

WE'VE ARRIVED.

!

VENUS GATE
2
DO NOT OPEN


DOCTOR
ドクター

SORRY, BUT IT'S NOT THE MAIN LABORATORY WHERE MARCO IS
IN FRONT OF LABOR-ATORY 2.
WHERE ARE WE?

...THERE'S NOTHING THAT COULD SURPISE YOU ANYMORE ...

YOU SAID ...
...?!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE.

EXCUSE ME?

GO INSIDE.

DO NOT OPEN

THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

IT'S COMPLETELY SEALED OFF!

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

DO NOT OPEN

THIS IS THE ONE AREA ...

...I AM ABLE TO ACCESS.

TAKK

WHAT?!

WHA
...

CRACK

CRACK

NO

HOW
...?!

...

STOP!

THERE'S SOME-THING IN THERE!

YOU TRICKED ME!

GH ...

...OF DECEIVING YOU.

I HAVE NO INTENTION ...

THE CHAINS ARE MEDUSA, TOO.

DON'T BOTHER.

AAH!

WHO ON EARTH ...

...!

ME-DUSA?!

MY NAME IS ALICE.

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THIS PLACE.

I WAS THE FIRST TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH MEDUSA.

huh?!

IN THE VIDEO ...

ONLY I SURVIVED.

EIGHT YEARS AGO, MY ENTIRE FAMILY FELL VICTIM OF MEDUSA ...

HOW WOULD THEY FORCE ME TO MAKE THE IMAGINARY BECOME REALITY?

WHY WAS I THE ONLY SURVIVOR?

SINCE THAT DAY, MY FATE HAS BEEN IRREVOCABLY INTERTWINED WITH MEDUSA.

EVERY SINGLE DAY, THE SAME EXPERIMENTS RESULTED IN THE SAME FAILURES.

...I FINALLY OBTAINED THESE POWERS.

FROM THOSE EXPERI-MENTS ...

...

CAN YOU EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE THINGS I'VE BEEN THROUGH?

ドドドドド

ジャラン

VENOM 2 ATE

I OVER-CAME THE BARRIER.

ドドドドド

I AAAGH H!

ドドドドド

ドドドドド

WHAT WAS LEFT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A PITIABLE WRECK.

...

WHAT ...?

...?!

キキ

ビュウウウ

SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.

WITH YOUR OWN EYES.

ウウウウ

...MY SOUL WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE...

AS LONG AS MY MATERIAL BODY EXISTS ...

WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?!

WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME ...?

NO!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

THAT'S WHY.

...!

ふっ

I BELIEVE YOU, TOO, HAVE REALIZED THIS BY NOW, RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY UNINVOLVED IN THIS MATTER, YOURSELF.

AH ...

WAIT!

ﾆﾔﾘ

I'M WAITING.

IAAAHI

ｸﾞﾝ

ｶﾞﾊﾞｯ

?!

ﾆﾔﾘ

STAY ...

ジャララ

ガギ

WHAT NOW ...?!

?

ガギ

ガギ

?!

OUCH ...

ガバッ

?!

DON'T BE SCARED.

OPEN UP!

WHY DID YOU LOCK ME IN HERE?

KRRK

STOP ...!

ガチャガチャ

UAH!

pull

HERE ...

Has her voice changed?

...?

EVEN THE THORNS CAN'T COME IN HERE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...!

AHH!

gulp

...

HERE

...

THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE.

ヒョコー

カチッ

ヨシ！

カチッ

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

カチッ

ON THAT DAY, MY BODY STOPPED GROWING.

IT'S ME...

ALICE ...

ALICE?

A CHILD?

...?

IF THIS DOESN'T SURPRISE YOU...

SUR-PRISED?

...

THIS... IS MY TRUE FORM.

...

THEN...

?!

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

STOP IT...

WAIT ...

ニヤニヤ

ニヤニヤニヤ

ズゴゴゴ

MY BODY ...

カキ…

カキ…

ALICE

LOOK HERE.

!

ズン

AHH!

YOU SEEM SURPRISED ENOUGH NOW

UAAAAH!

EXCEPT ONE LUNG AND THE HEART, NOTHING REMAINS ...

...

I FEEL LIKE IT'S A MIRACLE ...

...THAT I'M STILL ALIVE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.

WHAT KIND OF...

IT'S OKAY.

SORRY.

"DREAM PRO-JECTOR"?

A "DREAM PROJECTOR".

IT EXPOSES ME TO REALISTIC DREAMS AND FORCES ME TO WATCH THEM.

AS A RESULT, THE DEVICE MATERIAL ZES THE .MAGE DREAMT BY ME.

THE MORE REALISTIC THE DREAM, THE STRONGER MEDUSA'S REACTION ...

THIS DEVICE INDUCES MY DREAMS.

...AND I GAVE IT FORM...

I SAW THE DREAM ..

THE EXPERIMENT WAS ALMOST SUCCESSFUL ...

キリ キリ

...A GRAVE MISTAKE OCCURRED.

THE RESULT LIES BEHIND YOU.

?!

ガラン

BUT THEN ...

...

A MISTAKE?

CLACK

CUCK-KOO

CUCKOO

AS I AWAKEN FROM MY DREAM, MY DREAM WORLD COLLAPSES

THIS WAS WHAT ...

DESTROYED OUR WORLD, AND ME ALONG WITH IT.

THE POINT WHERE I AWAKE FROM MY DREAM.

ZEUS ...

AND THEN ...

BUT SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO SURVIVE THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF MEDUSA.

MAN?

... THIS MAN APPEARED.

IN THE END, HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED: A DEVICE WHICH ALLOWS PEOPLE TO KEEP DREAMING FOREVER.

HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE DEVICE WAS, AND HAD IT IMPROVED ...

THE WORLD IS CURRENTLY RESIDING ...

...WITHIN A DREAM.

THE COLD SLEEP CAPSULES!

EXACTLY.

DREAM FOR-EVER?

huh?!

GUAHH!

UHH ...

OWEN ...

OWEN

OWEN ...

...!

?!

IF YOU TRY TO MOVE, YOU'LL GET UNNECESSARILY HURT.

HEY.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

STRAYS' LAIR

KING OF THORNS

Translated by yaoi

"[illegible] is a messenger, not a plenipotentiary and proves his fidelity to his great masters by reproducing what seems to them to the contemporary eye wrong, outrageous, or incomprehensible, for therein may be what is most important to us.
He resists the temptation to make the work attractive or relevant, for its relevance may be in its appearing irrelevant to current thought [...] -more to come with the next release!

Proofread by yaoi and Ville_77

"Soon we will demonstrate the risk of equine circulatory goodness exploitation as the melting banks of our snowdrift micro-waves will follow long the tomb."

Checked by Sarah

Keep [illegible] over your head.

Typeset by Bailey

"I'd like to say that Stans Hawaiian shirt and facial hair and ponytail combination did cause me unmentionable grief, stealing any pleasure gained from most of this chapter. The mind wins the kingdom of God is within you."

Edited by Mikey

"I hope make the best TPB ever. And make if you get to see them.

Got more cleaning and beautifying skills? Join the fight over strays' lair at

[illegible]

or

[illegible]

Chapter 29

Flaws and Reality

...

PETER ?!

?!

HEY.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

BULL-SHIT!

YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!

...

?!

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST.

YOU WOULD THINK SO ...

...BUT MEDUSA, RIGHT?

I'M NOT PETER ...

Medusa ... ?!

PETER'S MEMORY IS JUST CARRIED BY THE COCK-ROACHES.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDUSA?

YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SEEN VEGA'S RECORDINGS TO KNOW THAT...

MY MEDUSA-SELF REALIZES THAT IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN MEDUSA ...

IN A WAY, IT'S FUNNY ...

HEH ...

NOW I'M HERE.

...I SLOWLY REALIZED THE TRUTH.

WHILE I WAS FIGHTING MY WAY THROUGH TO THIS PLACE ..

I AM A SCIEN-TIST.

...I HAVE LEFT.

THAT'S THE SOLE PURPOSE ..

I CAME HERE TO GET BACK THE COLD CAPSULE I CREATED.

... keeps him alive?

His obsession ...

...

THAT'S WHY I'M NOT DEAD YET.

GHHH!

is that now he sees himself?

is that why his body consists of cock roaches?

If this is the place where the power of Medusa is at it's peak...

hah hah

SHIT!

...why am I still un-infected?

Then...

!

...WOULD I...

BUT EVEN IF I GOT INFECTED ...

…

ドドドドド

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

GRIP

ワシ

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

...A FACTORY!

NO, MORE LIKE

THE NEST OF THE MONSTER.

THAT'S ...

...THIS ROOM WOULD BE SO HUGE.

I FIGURED THAT OUT ALREADY, BUT I DIDN'T THINK. .

CORRECT ..

FROM HERE, THEY ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD.

CAP-SULE?

?

YES ...

AND THE CAPSULE I RE-DESIGNED IS ALSO HERE ..

KYUIII

ONLY ONE...

...ORIGINAL CAPSULE EXISTS!

.. THERE WERE LOADS OF THEM IN THE CAPSULE ROOM.

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE COLD SLEEP CAPSULES ...

DON'T CONFUSE MY CAPSULE WITH THAT MASS-PRODUCED TRASH!

YOU SEE THAT RED CABLE?

?!

OVER THERE.

...

...

THE CABLE LEADS TO MY CAPSULE ...

ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ

THE RED CABLE!

!

IT TRANS-FORMS AS IT GROWS.

... BECAME EVEN BIGGER!

THIS THING ...

...?!

AND MY CAPSULE'S THERE, TOO!

WAIT A SECOND!

IF YOU TAKE A CLOSER LOOK... THE OTHER CABLES AND THE THORNS ...

...ORIGINATE FROM THE BODY ITSELF..

A COLD SLEEP CAPSULE ...?

GRRFHH

ブキン

SLOW AS EVER.

JUST NOW?

...!

NOW I UNDER-STAND!

IDIOT!

DID YOU REALLY THINK ...

...I GATHERED MEDUSA PATIENTS JUST SO I COULD PUT THEM INTO THESE EXPENSIVE COLD SLEEP CAPSULES?

ZEUS ...

WHO ...

HYPNOSIS INDUCTION?

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO YOU BY NOW, BASED ON THESE THREE POINTS.

THE COLD SLEEP CAPSULES, THE WANDERING MONSTERS, AND THE CHARACTER-ISTICS OF MEDUSA ...

HOW UNFORT-UNATE THAT DETERMINED PEOPLE, LIKE OUR SELVES ...

...ARE BEYOND INFECTION ...

HEHE ...

MY METHOD IS FAR SUPERIOR. IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE TO IMPLANT AN IMAGE IN FULL DETAIL AND REPRODUCE IT.

OH NO, NOTHING THAT CRUDE.

CORRECT ...

I MANIPULATE DREAMS, AND USE THEM TO RESHAPE OUR WORLD.

AND COLD SLEEP IS THE "MARBLE", THE ELEMENT WHICH ENSURES THAT THE FOUNTAIN REMAINS FIRM.

I NEEDED ALL 160 CAPSULES TO FIND THE "FOUNTAIN" AMONGST THE PATIENTS.

THIS WAS ALL NECESSARY ...

HEH.

IF SHE WERE TO WAKE FROM HER DREAM, THE FOUNTAIN WOULD BE CRUMBLE

ゴゴゴゴ

HA HA HA!

...TO BECOME A PART OF MY DREAM!

...IN ORDER FOR THE WORLD ...

?

?!

...BE TRUE ...

THAT CAN'T ...

UAAARH!

...FOR YOUR INSANE PLANS?

YOU DARE TO USE MY INVEN-TION ...

DIE!

?!

!

ヒョ

ヒョ

ヒョ

ヒョ

STRINGS?!

IDIOT
...

キリ

キリ

キリ

ギュ

ギリギリ

ヒュ

!

YOU DISGUST ME!

ZAPP!

FRRZT!

BRZZT!

BRZZT!

WHEN DID YOU GIVE UP YOUR PHYSICAL BODY?

...

ZEUS ...

HEH.

hehe

IT NEVER MEANT ANYTHING TO ME TO BEGIN WITH.

THU...

SNAP

I DISPOSED OF IT IMMEDIATELY AFTER I OBTAINED THESE POWERS.

HE HEHE ...

MY GOOD OL' SOUL VESSEL ...

A LOGICAL STEP.

...

NOW I DON'T NEED FINGERS OR KEYBOARDS TO ACCESS MY PROGRAMS.

WITH THESE STRINGS, I CAN COMMAND ELECTRICITY, RANGING FROM HIGH-VOLTAGE CURRENTS TO WEAK ELECTRONIC SIGNALS.

YOU FIGURED IT OUT.

WELL, WELL!

YOUR BODY IS MADE UP OF THEM?

I ENTWINE THE STRINGS TO CREATE A LCD MEMBRANE, AND MY IMAGE APPEARS ON IT.

SO IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN CG

ZEIRU

!

ヒュルル

AND STILL ...

MY VOICE IS GENERATED BY VIBRATING THE MEMBRANES.

THEY CAN EVEN PRODUCE MELODIES.

RIDI-CULOUS!

...TO STRIKE ME DOWN WITH YOUR BARE HANDS?

...YOU CAME HERE ...

MEDUSA ...

...A GIGANTIC NETWORK ...

BECAUSE NOW I AM...

...
THE WORLD!

THOSE TIMES HAVE PASSED.

I'M OUT OF YOUR REACH, MARCO.

THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.

A DON QUIXOTE FIGHTING WINDMILLS.

A SUN WUKONG IN THE PALM OF BUDDHA.

ズ
ズ
ズ

...

IN TRUTH, YOU ARE WEAK.

YOUR NAIVETE ...

HEHE ...

INSTEAD, THEY PROVE THAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH.

YOU THINK THE TATTOOS MAKE YOU LOOK STRONGER?

...IS JUST PATHETIC, MARCO.

ゴゴゴ

4

UUUU

WHAT-EVER IT TAKES!

I WILL SUR-PASS YOU!

ｸﾞｯｸﾞｯｸﾞｯ

ｸﾞｲｰﾝ

EVEN ...

...IF I HAVE TO DIE FOR IT!

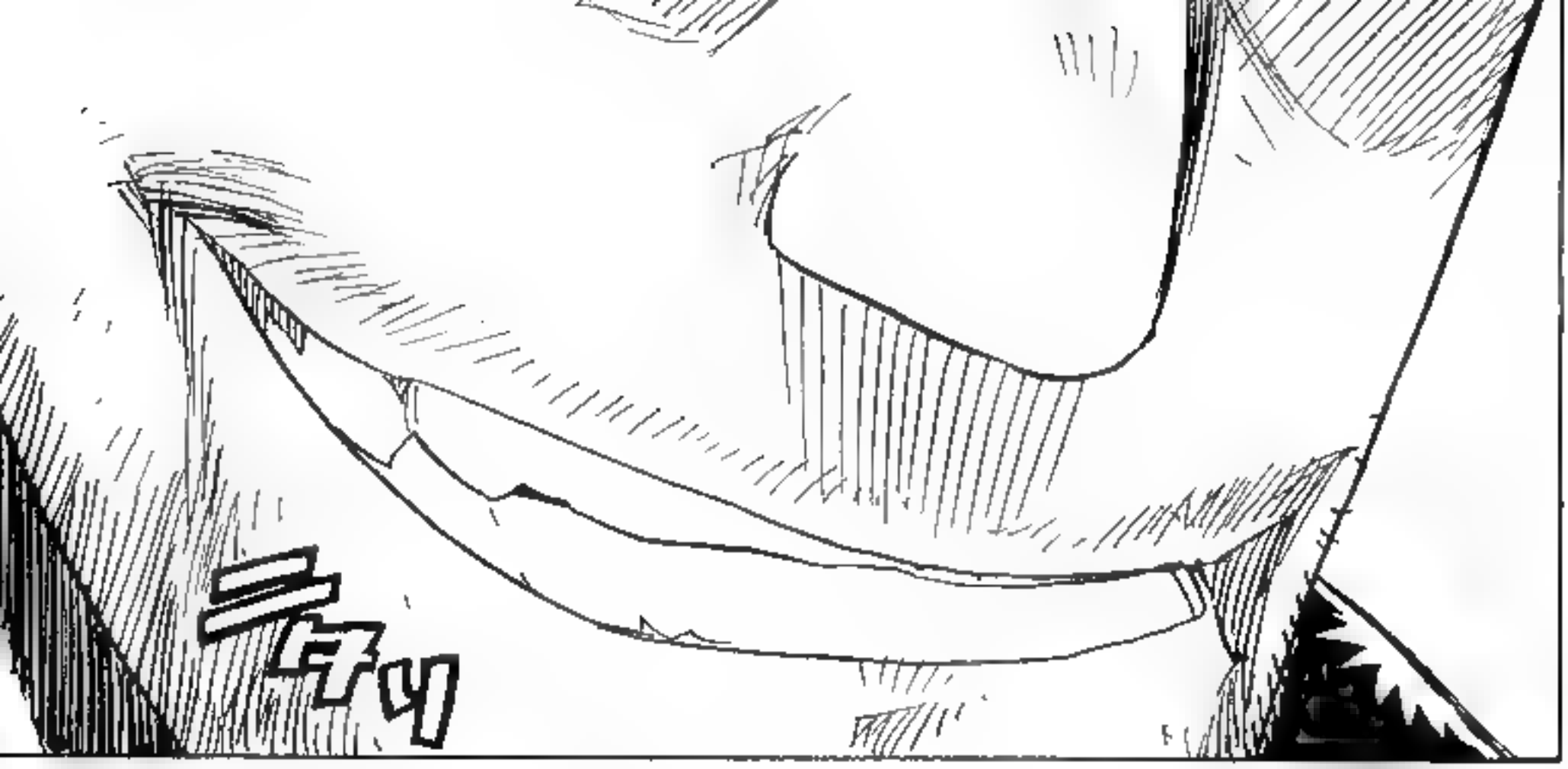
ｸﾞｲｰﾝ

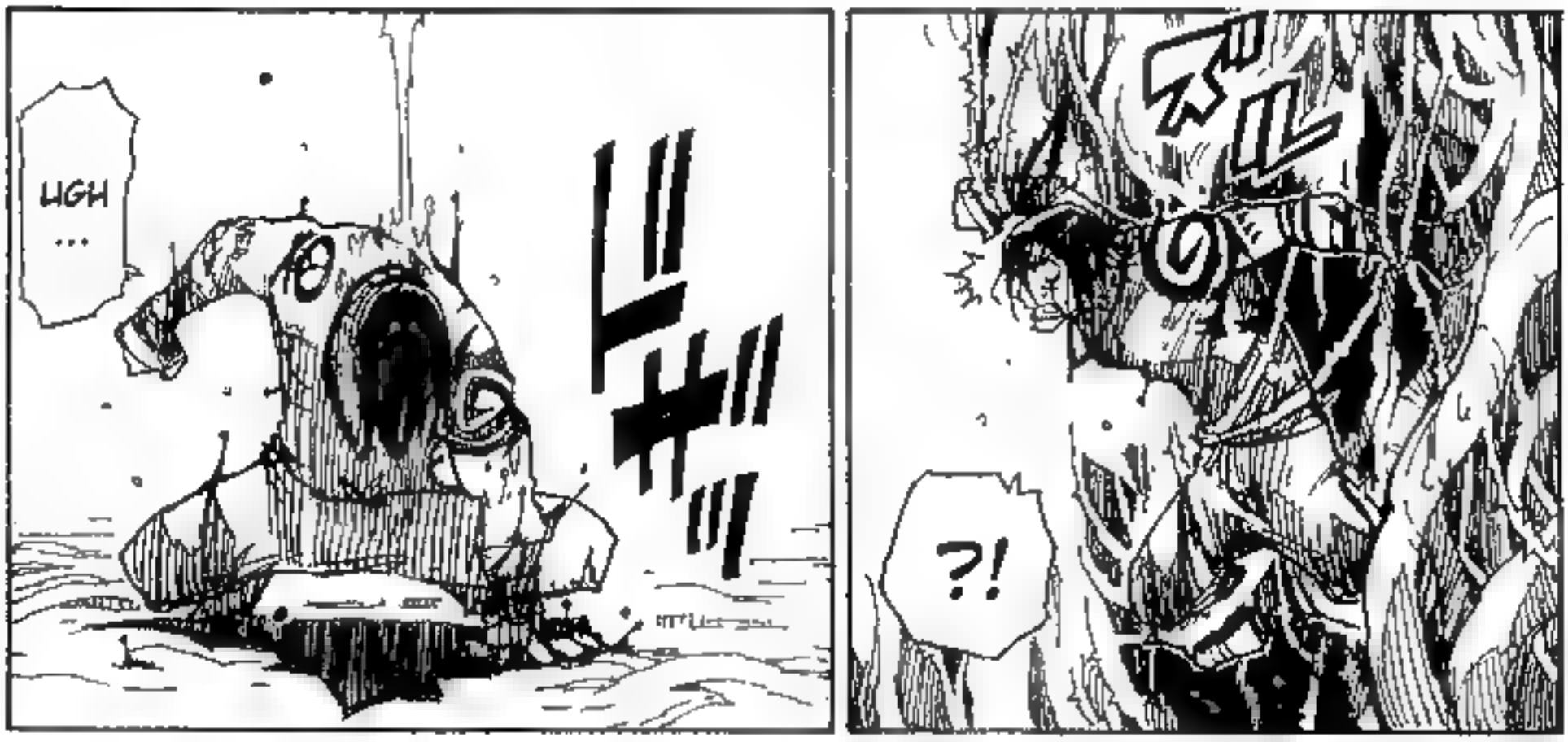
ｸﾞｲｰﾝ

ｸﾞｲｰﾝ

ARC

EVEN IF MY SOUL HAS TO LEAVE MY BODY... I WILL BRING YOU DOWN!




UGH
...
?!

WELL NOW!
?

!

ヘミッ!!

ズルル…

ゴゴゴゴ

DEATH-MATCH!

…!

?!

LET'S FIND OUT ...

...HOW FAR YOUR BARE HANDS WILL TAKE YOU.

WILL YOUR SOUL ...

GH ...

...!

!

HOGG H!

...REMAIN UNSHAKEN UNTIL YOUR DEATH?

SHIT!

...
MARCO!

FACE THE
REALITY
...

Translated by yal

"The most tankoubon they've read in the year. The tone is clean and is not dirty."

Edited by yaoi and Vile.77

"Hold down ctrl."

Checked by Kaeli

Never done this

Typeset by Bailey

"Every tankoubon is STILL FANTASTIC. Also can someone start translating Hajimete Arushi to Yamiyami x Hijiri x King Frost yaoi k thx."

Aided by Hatsuki & Ephialtes

"Added 5 minutes because Yen and Bailey kept eating my lunch."

Line art by Kaidin

"If a mad scientist decided to take over the world now, nobody would be surprised. Not even those who know there's a veritable dearth of mad scientists throughout history."

Got mad cleanin' and/or reading skills? Join the Fujoshi Saber Strays' lair at

strayslairforums.org

or

irc.rizon.net #strayslair

STRAYS' LAIR

KING OF THORNS

Chapter 30
An Entity Named Shizuku

UH!

GAAGH!

UNGH ...

...IN THE END THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU ...

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU TRAIN ...

GHH ...

I UNDER-STAND ...

!

ﾅﾆ

ｸﾜｯ

ｸﾜｯ

ｸﾜｯ

HAAA!

ｸﾜｯ

GRP

ｸﾜｯ

?!

GAAH!

THUMP

TAKE YOUR TIME AND PLAY WITH HIM A LITTLE.

DON'T KILL HIM TOO QUICKLY.

GUH

ZU

ZU

"ll ll ll ...

ZU

ZU

HEHE ...

MARCO ...

HEHE ...

SHE HAS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THIS AS WELL.

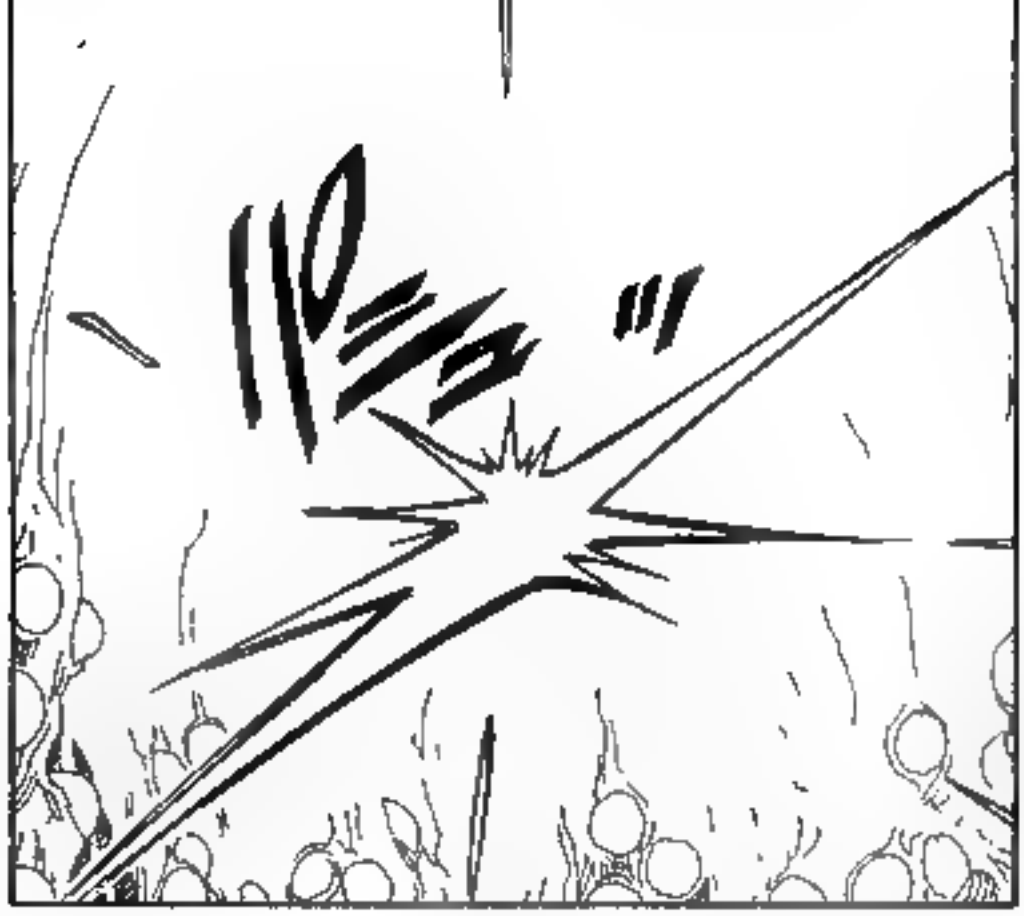
For a while, it seemed as though she had weakened, but now she seems to have regained her original strength...

LET THE RAVENOUS WORLD KNOW WHO ITS TRUE RULER IS!

VERY WELL!

LET'S BEGIN PHASE TWO!

WITH THIS DAY, THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA APPROACHES!


HYA
HA
HA
HA!
HA
HA
HA
HA!

KASUMI
...

KASUMI
...

WHERE ARE YA?

KASUMI!!

...

...

THEY TRY TO ENTER TH'S PLACE.

IT'S THE THORNS.

THE THORNS?!

...WAS THAT SOUND?

WHAT ...

EH?!

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?

is that really Shizuku?

AND SOON, THEY'LL SUCCEED.

...!

...

WHAT'S SHE LIKE?

THE GIRL THAT'S SO IMPORTANT TO YOU ...

BUT WE HAVE OPPOSITE PERSON-ALITIES ...

WELL... WE LOOK ALIKE...

SINCE WE'RE TWINS.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ?

...AM MORE SHY AND INTRO-VERTED.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND ...

SHE ALSO DID WELL IN SPORTS.

SHE WAS ALWAYS CHEERFUL AND OUT-GOING.

...WE STILL DID EVERYTHING TOGETHER.

BUT, EVEN THOUGH OUR PERSONALITIES WERE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ..

SHIZUKU ALWAYS SAID THAT.

THAT WAY WE COMP-LEMENTED ONE ANOTHER, LIKE A FORM OF BALANCE

WE EACH HAD SOMETHING THAT THE OTHER DIDN'T HAVE.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AS WELL

SHE SAID THAT BECAUSE WE WERE ONE IN THE BEGINNING ...

ONLY TOGETHER WE ARE WHOLE.

AND SO, IT SEEMED LOGICAL ..

...THAT BOTH OF US GOT INFECTED BY MEDUSA ...

I TRULY BELIEVED THAT...

... UNTIL DEATH ...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD BE TOGETHER ...

...AND THE OTHER WOULD SURVIVE.

...THAT ONE OF US WOULD DIE...

I JUST COULDN'T ACCEPT ..

ゴロ ッ....

...THAT WAS MORE PAINFUL THAN DEATH.

FOR ME...

YOU SEE...

I FELT LIKE MY HEART WAS BEING TORN APART.

AND THEN, MY DESPAIR OVER-WHELMED ME...

HM...

ONE OF US WOULD LOSE OUR OTHER HALF ...

110

...

A... AAH...

ARE YOU INSANE?!

ガシッ

LET ME DIE!

LET GO!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

I WANT TO... GO WITH YOU...

I DON'T WANT TO SURVIVE ALONE!

...I'LL HATE YOU FOREVER.

IF YOU DO THAT...

ha

ha

I WAS SO NAIVE ...

ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTOOD WHAT SHE WANTED TO TELL ME...

AFTER THAT, SHIZUKU STOPPED TALKING TO ME.

...

I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF ...

TRYING TO LOSE MY HEAVY BURDEN ..

AND WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD TO EACH OTHER, WE DROVE TO CSCC.

THERE WAS STIL- SO MUCH THAT I WANTED TO TEL- HER...

THAT DAY CHANGED ...

...EVERY-THING.

PHOTO: KAGUMI & SHIZUKU'S SCHOOL TRIP

ガヤ

MOM, DAD...

GIVE ME A SECOND TO TALK TO HER.

...

!

ザッ

ザッ

ザッ

EH...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO CHEER YOU UP.

SORRY.

AH...

...

.DON'T WORRY...

AH...

AND I...

IT'D JUST MAKE YOU EVEN SADDER.

NO MATTER WHAT I SAY ..

I KNOW ONE THING FOR SURE!

I'M A LOT STRONGER THAN YOU ARE!

HEY...

THANKS ...

WHEN YOU WAKE UP, I'LL DEFINITELY HAVE BIGGER BREASTS THAN YOU.

I'LL BE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

YEAH ...

SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT I'D ...

RIGHT?

...DIE BEFORE YOU.

HEH ...

"GOOD FOR YOU TO BE SO YOUNG!"

I ALREADY KNOW WHAT I'LL SAY.

"AHHH ..."

HEHE ...

AHA HA HA HA!

HA HAHA ...

PROMISE ME.

...YOU'LL LOOK FOR ME RIGHT AWAY.

WHEN YOU WAKE UP...

...

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.

IT'S A PROMISE.

OKAY.

YES.

YOU SURE?

SHIZUKU ...

OH WELL, THEN ...

SWEET DREAMS.

LET'S GO, KASUMI

...

...

EVEN IF SHE'S BEEN TRANSFORMED BY MEDUSA!

...

IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE, I'LL FIND HER..

キュッ

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO FIND SHIZUKU ...

...HAD A FRIEND WHO I WAS ALWAYS WITH.

I ALSO ...

...

SHE MUST HAVE MEANT A LOT TO YOU.

HIS NAME WAS KALUL.

HE ALWAYS PLAYED PRANKS AND NEVER DID ANY-THING RIGHT.

HE LOOKED LIKE A CAT.

ONE DAY...

...HE DIED IN A FIRE THAT I STARTED.

I HAD LOCKED THE DOOR TO PREVENT HIM FROM ESCAPING.

...

BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT I DID, HE JUST WOULDN'T DIE.

BUT ON THAT DAY, HE DIED RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES.

D-DO YOU MEAN ...

...YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND?

IT WAS HIM THAT GOT THE SCOLDING NOT ME ..

I CREATED HIM FOR THAT PURPOSE

sigh

BECAUSE IT WAS HIM THAT DID SOMETHING WRONG, NOT ME

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS IMAGINARY.

?!

...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MEDUSA FEEDS OFF EXTREME FANTASIES ...

BUT WHAT I TOLD YOU WASN'T FANTA--

AAAAAHHH!

?!

SO, THEY FINALLY SUCCEEDED.

HEH...

HE'S MY STRENGTH.

ゴゴゴ

...!

INSIDE, HE'S JUST FEATHERS AND GEARS, BUT HE'S TOUGH.

110

THAT--

SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE WORRIED?

バキ バキ

IT'S FINE

wiggle

THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN

WHEN THEY FIND SOMEONE, THEY STOP GROWING.

KERKS

KERKS

KERKS

BUILD

...THE THORNS ONLY GROW IF NO ONE IS AROUND.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T REALIZED THAT..

?!

WHEN THE BARRIER WAS REMOVED, THEY SUDDENLY STARTED GROWING

HA ...

JUST LIKE BACK THEN IN THE POWER PLANT!

AAAH!

REALLY?

THE SOUL?!

TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, HUMAN SOULS CAN MERGE FANTASY WITH REALITY.

I DON'T THINK WHAT YOU TOLD ME WAS JUST YOUR IMAGINATION

BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN ...

!

I WONDER IF YOU'LL HAVE THE COURAGE TO FACE THE TRUTH.

A FANTASY WORLD CREATED TO BURY DEEP WOUNDS ...

FOR ME, THE ABUSE FROM MY FAMILY WAS THE TRIGGER ...

Translated by yal

"The coolest bunkai thing I've read or live this year. Art is dope and is not dying."

Marked by yarr and Alex_TT

Also with plots to people who don't post marks.

Checked by Keith

Also missing marks!

Typeset by Bailey

"I dedicate this to a certain ARTIST who has been neglected from credit LET MY APOLOGIES DIVERT your wrath away from Yarr."

Edit by Nikolay & Spikeballer

"How did I never notice that page was unbalanced"

Got mad cleaning and/or rendering skills? Do the Fight enter Strays' lair at

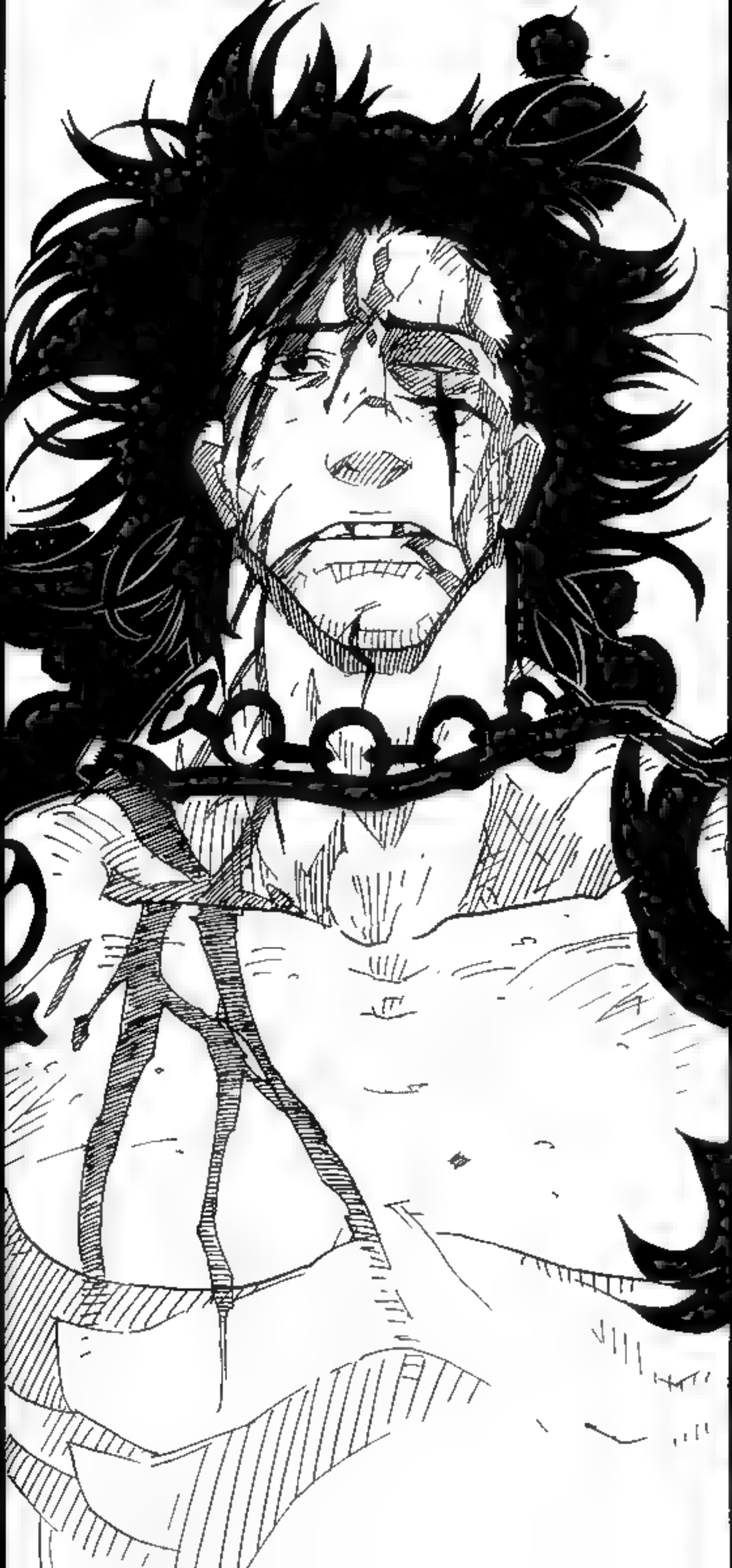
discord.gg/fightstorystrays

or

patreon.com/fightstorystrays

STRAYS' LAIR

KING OF THORNS



Chapter 31
The Elite

These fantasies were born to fill the depth of the darkness that you carry with you.

The wounds in your heart ...

You only need it to be whispered in your ear, and...

... Medusa for him.

... it will materialize ...

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴ

HE HE ...

HAHA ...

キュルル

OH WELL. RISE!

HE HE ...

OH YEAH, YOU'RE A BIT BUSY.

THE GREATER THE DARKNESS IN HER..

...THE GREATER MY AMBITIONS.

CAN YOU HEAR IT, MARCO? THEIR SCREAMS?

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

WAAH!

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

ビキッ!!

...!

NOW WHAT?!

ARISE!

MY SECOND SELF!

...!

...!

IT SEEMS THAT THIS TIME NOT ONLY THE THORNS ARE GROWING

HOH!

DAMN ...

...!

twitch

HYA HA HA!

HA HA HA!

HAAAH!

HA HA HA!

HYA HA HA!

HA HA ...

HELP!

UUORHH!

SHI-ZUKU!

?!

IF THE DARKNESS IN HER CONTINUES TO GROW, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING HER BACK

GO! YOU'D BETTER HURRY.

THEN FIND AN ANSWER ON YOUR OWN.

SHE'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, ISN'T SHE?

...

BUT... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

AND THE ANSWER DEFINITELY LES THERE.

THAT'S A FACT.

ONE LAST THING BEFORE YOU LEAVE. THE WOUNDS IN HER HEART AND THE THORNS THEY'RE DIRECTLY CONNECTED.

HURRY!

GO, BEFORE YOU LOSE HER FOREVER!

The wounds... in Shizuku's heart...

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

GO.

Y...

YES!

YES, WELL ...

BUT...

GO NOW.

NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME

IF I WANT TO I CAN SEPARATE MY SOUL FROM MY BODY BESIDES, I STILL HAVE HIM.

YOU'D BETTER NOT DIE, THEN.

I WILL ...

...COME BACK TO GET YOU.

YEAH, I KNOW ...

...

I wonder if I can change something by myself.

I...

No, I'll manage ...

ha

ha

SHE'S NOT COMING BACK.

UUAAAGHH!

nghh

hh

hh

NGH ...

pfft

hff

hff

SHIT ...

Her voice...

As if I heard a voice...

ha

ha

This dust cloud... where did it...

?!

GHH ...

HE HE HE ...

!

YOU'RE STILL A SORE LOSER ...

... MARCO!

HE HE!

WHO ...?

SO YOU'RE STILL STANDING!

AND?

OUT OF BREATH BY NOW?

?!

HE HE ...

... seem somewhat different ...

These creatures

スッ

!

!

!

WITHIN THE BLINK OF YOUR EYE...

.. I HAVE DEVE..- OPED MY AMBITIONS FURTHER.

HEHE ...

THE BIRTH OF THE ZEUS RACE.

GOD'S ARMY.

A NEW MASTER RACE, SUPERIOR TO MANKIND, HAS APPEARED ON EARTH.

COR-RECT.

ZEUS ...

... RACE?

BUT THEY ARE DIFFERENT.

バキ バキ

...

UNTIL NOW, I'VE ONLY SENT MONSTERS ...

.. WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO ATTACK THE PEOPLE AND TO DESTROY HUMAN CIVILIZATION IN THE WORLD

...

ha ha

TOTALLY DIFFERENT ...

ｷﾀｰ!!

?!

IS THAT ...?!

...?

THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE!

MASS-PRODUCED COLD SLEEP CAPSULES IN THERE?

THERE'S ONE OF THOSE

THEN... THEN THESE ARE...

...!

THEY WILL ENSURE THAT EVEN WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE "FOUNTAIN", THE WORLD ..

...WILL MAINTAIN THE ORDER THAT MEDUSA HAS IMPOSED ON IT.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I DIDN'T GATHER THE MEDUSA PATIENTS IN THE CASTLE WITHOUT A REASON.

AND, BECAUSE OF THEIR STRONG CONNECTION TO MEDUSA, THEY POSSESS IT'S FORM-GIVING POWERS. ALL THIS MAKES THEM SUPER-HUMAN.

...THEY'RE ABLE TO LEAD THE OTHER MONSTERS.

FURTHER-MORE...

THEY POSSESS THE IQ OF AN AVERAGE HUMAN...

..AND CARRY MY THOUGHTS AND WIL...

THE INDOM-ITABLE ...

MY GREATEST ACCOMP-LISHMENT!

...ZEUS RACE!

DO YOU LIKE IT, MARCO?
...AND THEY WILL TAKE IT'S PLACE, FORMING A NEW REGIME.
JUST IMAGINE HOW HUMANKIND WILL BE THROWN OFF THE TOP OF THE ECO-SYSTEM
GUAAAAAAAAH!
HE HE ...
UAHH ...

IDENTICAL TO THE ONE IN EGYPT IN 3000 B.C

THAT WOULD BE PERFECT

A REGIME ...

...!

BIGANTIC CONSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT ANY PURPOSE.

GODS ..

SLAVES

WHY AREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL ME?

WHAT ARE YOU ...

PLANNING TO DO WITH ME?

GOOD, EH?

HE HE ...

FROM THE RUINS OF FORMER CITIES, A BARBARIC CIVILIZATION WILL BE BORN.

WHY SHOULD I?

YOU'LL DIE EVEN WITHOUT MEDUSA ...

hehe

?

THEY CAN EVEN TALK... ?!

?!

...ARE FOR MASTER ZEUS

OUR LIVES ...

ZZ...

DOES HE INTEND ...

...!

THE WORLD IS BIG ...

AND THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH OF YOU JUST YET.

BRING THEM HERE!

THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE INFECTED BY MEDUSA.

LET'S AWAKEN THE POWER OF MEDUSA WITHIN THEM!

CAPTURE THEM ALIVE AND PUT THEM INTO THESE CAPSULES!

START WITH...

..THE ONES WHO ARE STILL WANDERING AROUND THE CASTLE.

YES, MASTER.

GO NOW!

DON'T DO IT!

DAMN IT!

NO ...

WAIT!

STOP!

?!

HM?!

!

?

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ...

?!

...IT'S MORE THAN THAT ...

NO...

A HOLE?

WHAT ...

...?!

WHAT IS THAT ...?!

UOOOHHH!

HHH ...

A SOUND ...

WHO IS IT?

HAH!

!

ouhh!

OUCH!

WAHH!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

?!

A HUMAN?

TOGETHER WITH A TRANS-FORMED?

WAHH!

DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

ドドドド

KUEEEE!

110

110

110

ドド

ドド

UUAAAHH!

ニゴロ

...

WAAHH!

SNATCH

OTTT

UNGH!

UAAAAHHH!

YOU FUCK-ING...

...!

ZEUS ...

IT WON'T EVEN TAKE FIVE MINUTES.

HE HE HE ...

...ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHY ...

WELL AND NOW ...

...

WHY?!

...BRING ME HERE SO I COULD SOLVE THIS PUZZLE!

YOU DIDN'T ...

...

AND THEN YOU WAKE US UP ALONG WITH THE GIRL WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONE WHO ACCOMPANIED YOU...

YOU MADE SURE THAT I WOULD ENTER ONE OF THOSE CAPSULES ...

...TOGETHER WITH THE CONGRESSMAN WHO KNEW MY IDENTITY AND THE INVENTOR OF THE CAPSULES ...

EH?

...AM I RIGHT?

YOU EXPECT ME TO DO... SOMETHING ...

WHAT MAKES YOU ENJOY IT?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT?

AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

YOU BRING THE PEOPLE THAT YOU WOKE UP BACK UNDER YOUR CONTROL?

...ZEUS!

...THEN JUST SAY SO ...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING PARTICULAR THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO...

WHERE DID SHE GO?

I CAN'T FIND HER.

uh

ha

ha

ha

WITHOUT MARCO, I FEEL INSECURE ...

WHO ARE THESE ...

CREA-TURES?

...

LET'S KEEP SEARCH-ING.

SHE HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.

THAT'S ENOUGH

hh

hh

hh

IF I DON'T FIND HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THEN.

ﾊｱｱ

ﾋｭ——

ﾋｭ——

…MARCO

ｽﾀｯ

YOU'RE SO DAMN CONCEITED …

ｸﾞｯ

ｸﾞｼｯ

GUAHH!

BUT I NEVER HAD HIGH HOPES FOR YOU FROM THE BEGINNING.

YOU WERE USEFUL.

ｽﾞｻｯ

!

Be continued to next issue.

EXTRA PAGES

SPRING EDITION 2005

tschirp!

I'VE BUILT MY OWN HOME THEATER!

CURRENTLY ON A DIET...

Yeah!

I

IN SHORT... SOME CONCEPTS ARE "CLONED"...

...YOUNG PADAWAN.

arrgh!

HE SAID IT!

SO THAT'S WHY...

MOVIES ARE THE SOURCE OF MOTIVATION FOR MY WORKS...

Kasumi

AND THIS IS APPROXIMATELY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

Screen: Kikuchi WASR-60-HD

Frontspeakers: Eclipse TD712z

PC

"Dolby" by Tamayoshi

Hippo

Surround-Sound: 4x Eclipse TD508

PSX

DVD-Player: Marantz DV9500B

Subwoofer: Velodyne SPL-1000R

Powerbar: SAEC TAP-MATE

AV amplifier: Victor AXV8000

A tiny, 100cm wide sofa

MY ROOM IS ACTUALLY SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT ☆

In-Addition:

DVI/HDMI cable by Monster Cables. The power and audio cables are all from KIMBER.

INSIDER KNOWLEDGE:

It is said that my LCD projector has a low black level, but if you increase the brightness on the DVD player, the picture gets better. In addition, if you adjust the gamma curve so that the white level remains untouched, the picture will be perfect.

LCD projector: Hitachi PJ TX100J

...

THANKS AGAIN!

GETTING THIS AWESOME EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!

Originally, I used a special kind of QUAD speakers, the ESL63Pro, but I traded them off in favor of greater comfort in the room. I'm fairly pleased with this decision, even though I swapped over to the TD-series from Eclipse, as they fit nicely into my system.

QUAD ESL63Pro

Translated by: yal

MIA

Proofed by: yhrr and ville_77

WHY NO RANTS PEOPLE?!

Cleaned by: Ravlin

FAILURES ALL OF YOU

Typeset by: Ballzy

"YAL, I GAVE UP DISGAEA 3 TIME FOR THIS SHIT SERIES!!! DIE."

QC'd by: Luco & spiritsilver

RANT GOES HERE

Got mad cleaning and/or redrawing skills? Join the Fight! Enter Strays' lair at

strays.devserver.org

or

#strays@irc.highway.net